

**REMARKS**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §101 asserting that the claimed invention could be practiced using pencil and paper, and therefore, was directed to non-statutory subject matter. During telephone interviews on August 29 and 31, 2005, the Examiner indicated that amending the preamble of the independent claims to recite "A computer-implemented method" would overcome the §101 rejection. Therefore, Applicants have amended the preambles of claims 1 and 14 to now recite "A computer-implemented method." No new matter has been added.

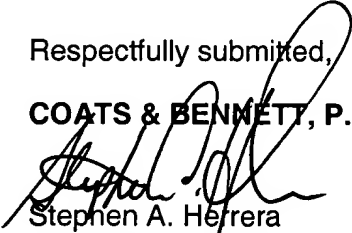
In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the §101 rejection and allow claims 1-26.

Dated: September 1, 2004

By:

Respectfully submitted,

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